

DSS Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council (ASDAC)
Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2021
(Virtual Meeting)

Members Present: Jennifer Abbatemarco, Representative Cathy Abercrombie, Judy Dowd, Amy Dumont, Marcia Eckerd, Bryan Klimkiewicz, Andrew Komarow, Valerie Lilley representing Mickey Kramer, Andrew Komarow, Jim Loomis, Kathy Marchione, Jimnahs Miller, Donyale Pina, Yana Razumnaya, Lynn Ricci, Alice Ridgway, Koleen Kerski, Lois Rosenwald, Carole Ryan-Hanlon, Kari Sassu, Tammy V DDS, Doriana Vicedomini, Julie Wolf

Members Absent: Stephen Byers, Jill Caron, Ann Gionet

Others: Sara Taussik, Jennifer Krom

Call to Order: 10:03am

Welcome and Roll Call

Review and Approval of January 20,2021 Meeting Minutes- Motion to approve by Doriana Vicedomini and seconded by Andrew Komarow

ASRC Peer Mentoring: Reaching Out & Fitting in Presentation by Lois Rosenwald, Jim Loomis and Sara Taussik (see attached presentation)

- Why Provide Social Opportunities To Our ASD Community?
- Peer Mentoring
- How Does It Work?
- Milford
- Canton
- Plainville High School Peer Mentoring Program
- Project Objectives
- Timeline
- Planning
- Peer Mentoring Training
- Peer Mentoring During Distance Learning
- Outcomes: Assessing Social Interactions
- Number of Peer Interactions
- Peer Interaction Measures

- Outcomes: Participant Feedback
- Outcomes: Anecdotal Evidence
- Conclusions
- Sustainability
- Our Take Aways...

State Plan Update by Jennifer Krom: (see attached presentation)

Medicaid Funded Services for Individuals with an Autism Spectrum Diagnosis – March Data Update

- ASD Medicaid Open Authorizations as of 03/01/2021 (Cumulative Monthly Admits/Authorizations to Autism Spectrum Disorder Services)
- ASD Medicaid Open Authorizations (Annual (YTD) Admits/Authorizations for ASD Services by Service Class)
- ASD Medicaid Youth Monthly Admissions Report (Total Unique Youth Admitted to ASD Service Type by Age at Admit)
- ASD Medicaid Youth Demographics
- ASD Provider Enrollment as of 1/1/2021
- ASD Care Coordination and Peer Specialist Activity

Discussion by Yana Razumnaya: Presented concerns

Nuerodiverse friendly, Autism Month, inclusion, please keep in mind verbiage when talking about the autism population, researching laws, shared her story, isolation, restraint and seclusion, building trust, trauma from programs, etc., ptsd, masking, stress, depression, more oversight in division, respectful therapies, stimming, the why behind behaviors, what is the why? A lot to learn, different techniques. Special interests to motivate and regulate.

ASD Waiver Update by Amy Dumont: 121 individuals on the waiver, brought 3 DCF (Voluntary Services) individuals onto waiver, 1825 on waitlist, new providers enrolled

Other Business:

Amy asked for suggestions moving forward. Inviting speakers to meetings

Yana offered to start groups for the ASD population, healthy relationships, friendships, self-advocates. Yan will share flyer with me to send to the Council.

Jim reminded about the Centers for Excellence. Amy will follow-up with Bill to share with Council

To Do: Amy will follow up with Bill regarding funds, Center for Excellence

Adjournment: 10:50am

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 10:00am**